



DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

S-E-C-R

DATE DISTR.

25 FEB 1972

NO. PAGES

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. [REDACTED] January 1972 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] were told that the regime of President Salvador Allende Gossens is adopting a progressively harder line in its dealings with MIR (the Movement of the Revolutionary Left). The primary reason for the growing disaffection is the revolutionary group's continuing "land invasions" in southern Chile. What disturbs Allende is popular discontent with MIR's lack of selectivity, as many of the invasions are occurring on farms which have less acreage than the maximum allowed under the agrarian reform law currently in effect. In past months, the police oftentimes would do nothing to interfere with this MIR activity. Indeed, in such instances the government would go ahead and "intervene" (this is a technical term which describes government action to confiscate a farm under agrarian reform statutes), even though the farm had legally permissible acreage. This course of action was taken because of a desire to placate MIR and possibly gain its cooperation in other endeavors.

2. It now appears, however, that Allende has concluded that MIR's appetite for reform cannot be satisfied with such minor concessions. Furthermore, the government is becoming concerned over the climate of insecurity which exists among the small farmers, who fear that MIR members may confront them next. [REDACTED] in large measure attribute the government defeat in the 16 January by-elections in southern Chile to small farmer discontent with MIR and Allende's mild opposition to its land invasion program. Allende's hand is also being forced by the Chilean legislature, which censured Minister of the Interior Jose Toha Gonzalez on 6 January 1972. This was, without question, a defeat for both Allende and MIR, whose representatives booed the Chilean President when he emerged from the National Assembly building after the vote had been taken. It is significant that the new acting Minister of the Interior, Alejandro Rios Valdivia [who has since been replaced by Hernan del Canto] made a public statement immediately after accepting the new position in which he said he would not allow MIR to continue taking over small farms, and that he was a strong believer in law and order.

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3. ~~SECRET~~ believe this was an accurate reflection of his own convictions, and also a clever attempt on the part of Allende, with whom Rios conferred before making the statement, to placate the nation's small farmer just prior to the by-election. Apparently resentment in the agrarian sector in southern Chile was sufficiently great that this gesture had no effect, for the government's candidates were not successful in the election. In any case, it does now appear that the police will respond to any further MIR attempts at farm confiscation, and resulting confrontations are quite likely. In his own dealings with MIR, FLASCO staff members expect Allende to use the censure of Toha as an excuse for withdrawing support for MIR activities.

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